UPDATE ON COLORADO RIVER STATUS

AUGUST 2015

CURRENT CONDITIONS

- AS OF EARLY AUGUST
  - TOTAL SYSTEM STORAGE IN COLORADO RIVER BASIN IS 53% - A SLIGHT INCREASE FROM THIS TIME LAST YEAR (51%)
  - PRELIMINARY UNREGULATED INFLOW TO LAKE POWELL FOR APRIL – JULY 2015 IS 94% OF AVERAGE
    - THIS IS THE MAIN INDICATOR OF THE HYDROLOGY IN THE BASIN
  - AVERAGE IS GOOD!

IMPORTANCE OF AUGUST 24-MONTH STUDY

- THE AUGUST 24-MONTH STUDY PROJECTIONS OF JANUARY 1 RESERVOIR ELEVATIONS IN LAKES POWELL AND MEAD DETERMINE THE RESERVOIR OPERATIONS FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR (PER THE 2007 INTERIM GUIDELINES)
  - 2015 AUGUST 24-MONTH STUDY IS USED
  - LOOK AT PROJECTED ELEVATIONS FOR END-OF-MONTH DECEMBER 2015
  - DETERMINES OPERATIONAL TIERS FOR THE VOLUMES THAT WILL BE RELEASED FROM LAKE POWELL AND LAKE MEAD IN 2016

2015 AUGUST 24-MONTH STUDY RESULTS

- LAKE POWELL PROJECTED ELEVATION ON JAN. 1, 2016 = 3,602.46 FT.
  - UPPER ELEVATION BALANCING TIER
  - ANNUAL RELEASE = 8.23 MAF
  - HOWEVER, IF THE 2016 APRIL 24-MONTH STUDY RESULTS MEET CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS, THE ANNUAL RELEASE FOR 2016 MAY BE ADJUSTED TO BE BETWEEN 8.23 – 9.0 MAF
- LAKE MEAD PROJECTED ELEVATION ON JAN. 1, 2016 = 1,082.33 FT.
  - NORMAL OR ICS SURPLUS CONDITION
  - **NO SHORTAGE CONDITION FOR 2016**

OTHER RESULTS

- THE 24-MONTH STUDIES GIVE PROJECTIONS FOR NEXT 2 YEARS
- THE 2015 AUGUST 24-MONTH STUDY PROJECTS LAKE MEAD ELEVATION ON JAN. 1, 2017 = 1,079.57 FT.
  - **IF** THIS PROJECTION HOLDS TRUE FOR THE NEXT YEAR, NO SHORTAGE CONDITION FOR 2017
  - HOWEVER, THAT IS ONLY A FEW FEET ABOVE THE SHORTAGE TRIGGER ELEVATION OF 1,075 FT. AND THE MOST CURRENT MODELING SHOWS A 47% PROBABILITY OF SHORTAGE IN 2017 (FROM JUNE 2015 – UPDATED MODELING EXPECTED LATER IN AUGUST)